TIGER Reliability Analysis in the DSN

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TIGER is a computer program designed to simulate a system over a period of time to evaluate system reliability and availability. Results can be used in the Deep Space Network for initial spares provisioning and system evaluation. This article describes the TIGER algorithm, the inputs to the program and the output.

I. Introduction

Efficient spares provisioning is a continuing problem in the Deep Space Network (DSN). Correct determination of equipment to be spared, spares stock and optimal network allocation becomes increasingly critical as budgetary restrictions reduce the margin of error. The Deep Space Network Support Section (377) has modified a computer program developed by the Department of the Navy to evaluate system reliability and availability which can aid in this process. Known as TIGER, this program's applications in the DSN include initial spares provisioning, system reliability and availability evaluation and maintenance planning. A major asset is the program's ability to model a wide range of systems. Systems as complex as an entire tracking station to the simplest station subsystem can be accommodated. Models can be simulated on the network, complex, station, system and subsystem level.

Presently the DSN relies on the engineering judgment of the Cognizant Design Engineer and Cognizant Operations Engineer, aided with results from the DSN Efficient Sparing Program, to provision spares for the Deep Space Stations in its tracking network. By taking into account factors such as failure rates, repair rates and shipping time, TIGER can provide the engineers with an analytic tool that takes into consideration all major system parameters.

II. Simulation Theory

TIGER uses Monte Carlo simulation methods to model the system. This procedure assumes a constant failure rate over a period of time for the system equipment. The probability of a failure occurring before time t can therefore be determined by the exponential distribution function $F(t) = 1 - e^{-Lt}$, where L is the failure rate and t is the time to failure (TTF). Substituting the reciprocal of the mean time between failure (MTBF) for L and solving for t, the equation used in the TIGER algorithm is derived: $TTF = -(1/MTBF) \ln [1 - F(t)]$. To obtain an equipment TTF a random number between zero and one is generated and substituted into the equation for [1 - F(t)] (Fig. 1).

Similarly, equipment time to repair (TTR) is simulated by drawing from an exponential distribution with the mean equal to the mean time to repair (MTTR). Here the random number is substituted into the equation TTR = -(1/MTTR) ln [1 - F(t)] to generate the time of equipment repair.

The system is simulated over a meaningful period of operating time, referred to as a mission. System up and down times are determined by generating a TTF for each lowest replaceable element (LRE) in the system. Initially each LRE is in an upstate. To detect system failure before completion of the

operational period simulated, the system is tested as each LRE fails. With each failure a TTR is generated for the LRE and a spare, if available, is put in its place. A new TTF is generated for each LRE experiencing repair to allow further failure after repair. This procedure continues until the mission aborts or the specified mission period is exceeded. The mission is aborted if the specified allowable downtime is exceeded due to lack of a critical equipment or subsystem. A new set of randomly generated values is used to determine equipment TTF and the program is rerun. At the end of each set of 50 mission simulations, reliability and availability figures are computed. Running a large number of missions (typically 500-1000) and averaging the results gives a high degree of accuracy.

TIGER is designed to simulate systems with variations in configuration. The operational sequence simulated is comprised of one or more operational phases. Each phase represents a unique configuration for the system. A maximum of 95 phases of 6 phase types are allowed. The configuration is based on a reliability diagram of the system. The system is divided into as many levels of subsystems as appropriate with the lowest level being that for which the MTBFs and MTTRs are supplied. From a maintenance standpoint this is the LRE.

III. Program Features

Much flexibility is provided by the program. Standby equipment may be designated to come up in the event of equipment failure. Operating rules may also be specified to cause a designated string of equipment to go down if one of the string equipment fails and no spares are available. These rules may vary by phase or remain constant throughout the mission.

Duty cycle, or percent of time used, may also be specified for each LRE by phase. This option is useful in systems where some equipment is used less rigorously than other system equipment. In the DSN this might apply to subsystems that are used less heavily during nontracking periods. Variable MTTRs may also be specified to provide for situations in which an equipment cannot be repaired during a particular mode of operation.

A sophisticated logisitics system is incorporated into TIGER. Numbers and types of spares may be specified as well as at what level the spares will be stocked. Three levels of sparing and associated administrative delay times are provided for. In the DSN this generally corresponds to the station, complex and network levels.

System and subsystem maximum allowable downtimes are user-specified to define mission abort conditions. Both sustained and total downtimes are considered.

User inputs to TIGER are equipment MTBF, MTTR and system configuration. Steps to using the program are as follows:

Define operational period to be simulated and allowable downtime.

Determine subsystem reliability configuration, noting parallel and series equipment.

Determine LREs.

Break system down into subsystems as warranted.

Gather MTBF and MTTR data for LREs

Determine sparing locations and associated logistics delay times.

Determine program options desired

Code input data in TIGER acceptable form.

Run program.

IV. Program Report

In the final report estimators for total system reliability, instantaneous availability, average availability and system readiness are given. In addition, mean uptime, mean downtime and mean time between mission failures are tabulated.

TIGER uses the generally accepted definition of reliability: the probability that the system will perform its intended function for a specified interval under the stated conditions. Mathematically this is calculated by dividing the number of mission aborts by the total number of simulated missions.

Two availability estimators are calculated. The average availability is the probability the system will be in satisfactory operating condition at a random point in time. In the DSN this is functional availability, or the fraction of scheduled service time the system performs its intended function. This is calculated mathematically as:

Average Availability =
$$\frac{\text{uptime}}{\text{calendar time}}$$

The instantaneous availability is the same probability for a specific point in time (i.e., the beginning and the end of the phase.)

System readiness is the probability the system will be in satisfactory operating condition when there is neither a mission abort nor a system failure. The readiness estimator is generally considered the lower bound on the availability estimator.

Most useful from a maintenance standpoint are the individual equipment unreliability and unavailability calculations. This part of the report ranks the equipment in order of contribution to system unreliability and unavailability. This isolates the major contributors to system downtime and calculates the individual equipment percent contribution to unreliability.

Spares usage is reported by LRE. Average spares used per mission and the maximum amount of spares used in a single mission are given. For initial spares provisioning, an unlimited spares stock may be specified. In this case the results would reflect the optimal spares stock for 100% system reliability if it is obtainable with the specified system components.

A more detailed report, if desired, gives a complete listing of system equipment events. Up and down times of all critical LRE are listed in chronological order.

V. Example

To demonstrate the usefulness of the TIGER analysis the program results for the command modulator assembly (CMA) are included. The system has 34 LREs of 13 types. The system consists of two CMAs, one of which must be operational to prevent system downtime (Fig. 2). CMA 801 will come up only upon the failure of CMA 800.

The first part of the report (Fig. 3a,b) lists pertinent system parameters. Two simulation report options are available. The management summary prints a message each time a mission abort occurs (Fig. 4). The phase type, phase sequence, mission number and time of mission abort are listed. The engineering summary is a more complete report that indicates each time an equipment changes status (up to down or down to up) or a phase boundary is crossed (Fig. 5).

After each set of 50 system simulations a "figures of merit summary" is printed. Reliability and availability figures are calculated for each phase of the mission and for the entire mission timeline. The system report (Fig. 6) is for 250 missions.

The equipment failures and corrective maintenance summary (Fig. 7) tabulates for each LRE the number of failures for all missions. The average number of failures per mission and the average number of corrective maintenance hours expended are listed.

The spares report lists the average number of spares used in any single mission. The report for the CMA (Fig. 8) indicates that the spares stock could be more optimally allocated since the entire stock is not used.

The critical equipment list ranks each LRE in order of greatest contribution to system unavailability and unreliability (Figs. 9 and 10). The results for the CMA indicate the subcarrier synthesizer (SC SYN) is a major contributor to both system unavailability and unreliability. Attention should be given to improving the design of the SC SYN to increase the MTBF and to procuring SC SYN spares.

VI. Conclusions

Used in combination with the DSN Efficient Sparing Program, TIGER can potentially aid the cognizant engineers in both initial and ongoing spares provisioning and improve operational availability of system equipment.

The simulation techniques used in TIGER are in wide use today for system reliability and availability evaluation. A second version of TIGER called TIGER/MANNING will soon be completed. This version will include the simulation process of the original program augmented with calculations of optimal worker allocation in system maintenance and repair duties.

The only significant disadvantage, common to all simulations of this type, is the considerable amount of computer time and storage required when a large complex system is modeled. However, most foreseeable applications of this program within the DSN are not on such a scale. Another minor problem is the inevitable random errors found in all system simulations. In actual use the major problem has been a lack of reliable failure data for system equipment. The results, of course, are limited by the accuracy of the parameters supplied.

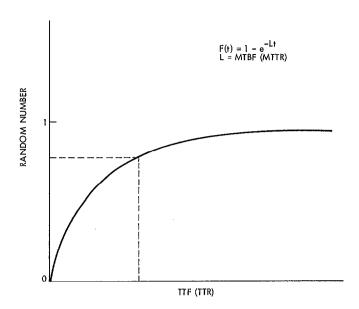


Fig. 1. Generation of time to failure (time to repair) from distribution function

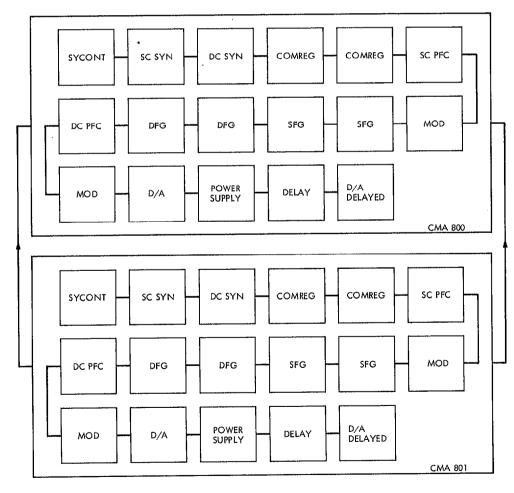


Fig. 2. Command modulator assembly reliability diagram

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SIMULATION CONTROL SPECIFICATIONS

STATISTICAL PARAMETERS USED FOR THIS SIMULATION:

250 - MAXIMUM NUMBER OF MISSIONS TO BE RUN

250 - OPTIMUM NUMBER OF MISSIONS TO BE RUN

,998 - SPECIFICATION REQUIREMENT FOR RELIABILITY

1.280 - STANDARD DEVIATION TO BE USED TO CALCULATE LOWER CONFIDENCE LIMIT

985 RANDOM NUMBERS WERE REJECTED PRIOR TO SIMULATION.
SIMULATION BEGINS WITH RANDOM SEED = ,94062208

1 PHASE TYPES ARE USED.
1 TIMELINE IS SIMULATED.

PHASE SEQUENCE TYPE DURATION CUMULATIVE TIME
1 2184.00 2184.00
PRINTOUT OPTION: MANAGEMENT SUMMARY
REPAIR OPTIONS:
PHASE TYPE 1: REPAIR ALLOWED
100 PERCENT OF REPAIRS ARE PERFORMED ON STATION.

MISSION ALLOWABLE DOWNTIME IS 273.00 HOURS.

MTBF MULTIPLIER = 1.00
MTTR MULTIPLIER = 1.00
BLOCK III CMA
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		EC	QUIPMENT CHA	RACTERIS	TICS		
ТҮРЕ	NOMENCI	LATURE	MTBF	MTTF	DUTY CYCLE	ADMIN DE	LAY TIME NETWORK
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13	SYCONT SC SYN DC SYN COMREG SC PFC DC PFC DFG MOD D/A POWER SU DELAY D/A DELAY		25000.0 12000.0 12000.0 25000.0 25000.0 25000.0 25000.0 25000.0 25000.0 25000.0 25000.0 25000.0	2.00 2.00 2.00 2.00 2.00 2.00 2.00 2.00	1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00	24.0 24.0 24.0 24.0 24.0 24.0 24.0 24.0	336.0 336.0 336.0 336.0 336.0 336.0 336.0 336.0 336.0 336.0 336.0
TYPE	EQUIPMEN	IT.					i
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	1 18 2 19 3 20 4 12 5 22 6 23 7 13 8 14 9 15 10 27 11 28 16 33 17 34	21 29 24 30 25 31 26 32					
SPARES TYPE	COMPLEME STATION	NT COMPLEX	NETWORK		;	SPARES MULTI	PLIER = 1.00
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	1 1 2 1 1 2 2 2 2 2 1 1 1 3 3	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0				
BLOCK	CIII CMA						

Fig. 3. TIGER Program output: simulation control specifications and equipment characteristics

SIMULATION	
MISSION 1 ABORTED IN PHASE SEQ 1 (TYPE 1) AT TIME BECAUSE CMA EXCEEDED ALLOWABLE DOWNTIME (273.0 HRS.) IN MISSION. POWER SUPPLY (EQUIPMENT 11) IS DOWN.	1816.6
IT IS NOT REPAIRABLE DUE TO LACK OF SPARES. MISSION 5 ABORTED IN PHASE SEQ 1 (TYPE 1) AT TIME BECAUSE CMA EXCEEDED ALLOWABLE DOWNTIME (273.0 HRS.) IN MISSION. DC PFC (EQUIPMENT 6) IS DOWN.	1273.9
IT IS NOT REPAIRABLE DUE TO LACK OF SPARES. MISSION 17 ABORTED IN PHASE SEQ 1 (TYPE 1) AT TIME BECAUSE CMA EXCEEDED ALLOWABLE DOWNTIME (273.0 HRS.) IN MISSION. SC SYN (EQUIPMENT 2) IS DOWN.	1170.6
IT IS NOT REPAIRABLE DUE TO LACK OF SPARES. MISSION 24 ABORTED IN PHASE SEQ 1 (TYPE 1) AT TIME BECAUSE CMA EXCEEDED ALLOWABLE DOWNTIME (273.0 HRS.) IN MISSION. SYCONT (EQUIPMENT 1) IS DOWN.	1550.1
IT IS NOT REPAIRABLE DUE TO LACK OF SPARES. MISSION 31 ABORTED IN PHASE SEQ 1 (TYPE 1) AT TIME BECAUSE CMA EXCEEDED ALLOWABLE DOWNTIME (273.0 HRS.) IN MISSION. DC PFC (EQUIPMENT 6) IS DOWN.	759.9
IT IS NOT REPAIRABLE DUE TO LACK OF SPARES. MISSION 40 ABORTED PHASE SEQ 1 (TYPE 1) AT TIME BECAUSE CMA EXCEEDED ALLOWABLE DOWNTIME (273.0 HRS.) IN MISSION. SC SYN (EQUIPMENT 2) IS DOWN.	940.4
IT IS NOT REPAIRABLE DUE TO LACK OF SPARES. MISSION 49 ABORTED IN PHASE SEQ 1 (TYPE 1) AT TIME BECAUSE CMA EXCEEDED ALLOWABLE DOWNTIME (273.0 HRS.) IN MISSION. DC SYN (EQUIPMENT 3) IS DOWN. IT IS NOT REPAIRABLE DUE TO LACK OF SPARES.	967.4
SC PFC (EQUIPMENT 22) IS DOWN. IT WILL COME UP AT TIME 968.1	

Fig. 4. TIGER Program output: management report

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SIMULATION
 START OF MISSION
                                                  1*****
                      (EQUIPMENT 14) FAILED AT TIME
(EQUIPMENT 14) CAME UP AT TIME
SYSTEM WENT DOWN AT TIME 232.1 DOWN TIME IS
PPLY (EQUIPMENT 28) FAILED AT TIME 548.5
    SEG
                                                                                                                             232.1
                                                                                                                                          .9 HRS.
    POWER SUPPLY
                                               (EQUIPMENT 28) FAILED AT TIME 548.5
(EQUIPMENT TYPE 11) CONSUMED ALL SPARES AT TIME
(EQUIPMENT 28) CAME UP AT TIME 574.7
(EQUIPMENT 32) FAILED AT TIME 968.9
(EQUIPMENT 32) CAME UP AT TIME 995.0
(EQUIPMENT 11) FAILED AT TIME 1543.6
                                                                                                                                                             548 5
    POWER SUPPLY
    MOD
    MOD
    POWER SUPPLY
DC SYN

(EQUIPMENT 20) FAILED AT TIME

1906.4

MISSION ABORTED AT TIME 1816.6

BECAUSE CMA EXCEEDED ALLOWABLE DOWNTIME (273.0 HRS.) IN MISSION.

POWER SUPPLY

(EQUIPMENT 11) IS DOWN.

IT IS NOT REPAIRABLE DUE TO LACK OF SPARES.
                      (EQUIPMENT TYPE 3) CONSUMED ALL SPARES AT TIME
(EQUIPMENT 20) CAME UP AT TIME 1930.6
SYSTEM WENT DOWN AT TIME 1543.6 DOWN TIME IS 387.0 H
       DC SYN
                                                                                                                                                           1906.4
       DC SYN
                                                                                                                                  387.0 HRS.
   POWER SUPPLY (EQUIPMENT 28) WILL FAIL AT TIME 2184,0 END OF SEQ 1 (TYPE 1).

SYSTEM WAS DOWN FOR 253.4 HRS, IN PHASE SEQ 1 AND REMAINED DOWN AT END OF PHASE.
                                                                                                                          2512.2
    START OF MISSION
                     DC SYN
DC SYN
DC SYN
                                                                                                                                                            428.7
                                                                                                                                    25.8 HRS.
   D/A DELAYED
   D/A DELAYED
                                                                                                                                    28.4 HRS.
   SC SYN
                                              (EQUIPMENT 19) WILL FAIL AT TIME
                                                                                                                          2629.6
         2184.0 END OF SEQ 1 (TYPE 1).
   START OF MISSION
   D/A
                                               (EQUIPMENT 27) FAILED AT TIME
                                                                                                                          1270.2
                    (EQUIPMENT Z/) FAILED AT TIME 1270.2

(EQUIPMENT TYPE 10) CONSUMED ALL SPARES AT TIME (EQUIPMENT 27) CAME UP AT TIME 1297.4

(EQUIPMENT 27) FAILED AT TIME 2001.9

(EQUIPMENT 4) FAILED AT TIME 2015.4

(EQUIPMENT 4) CAME UP AT TIME 2040.9

SYSTEM WENT DOWN AT TIME 2015.4 DOWN TIME IS (EQUIPMENT 15) WILL FAIL AT TIME 2206.0
   D/A
                                                                                                                                                          1270.2
   D/A
   D/A
   COMREG
   COMREG
                                                                                                                                    25.6 HRS.
         2184.0 END OF SEQ 1 (TYPE 1).
```

Fig. 5. TIGER Program output: engineering report

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FIGURES OF MERIT FOR PHASE SEQUENCE 1 (PHASE TYPE 1):
   BEGINNING:
                    AVAILABILITY (INSTANTANEOUS) = 1.0000
   IN PHASE:
                    RELIABILITY =
                                                             .9240
                    AVAILABILITY (AVERAGE) =
                                                             ,9465
                    READINESS :
  END OF PHASE: AVAILABILITY (INSTANTANEOUS) =
FIGURE OF MERIT SUMMARY FOR A GRAND TOTAL OF 250 MISSIONS:
                                  .92400
                                                        SPECIFICATION
  LOWER CONFIDENCE LIMIT (FOR STANDARD DEVIATION = 1.2800) = .9025
AVAILABILITY (AVERAGE) = .94648
                  (INSTANT) = .89600
  READINESS
  READINESS = .95448
MEAN TIME BETWEEN MISSION FAILURES (MTBMF) =
LOWER CONFIDENCE LIMIT (90 PERCENT) =
                                                                  27910.6
                                                                   -5101.4 (STD DEV = 1.28)
                                                             665157560.0
1288.7
  SYSTEM MEAN UP TIME, MUT (MTBF ESTIMATOR) =
SYSTEM MEAN DOWN TIME, MDT (MTTR ESTIMATOR) = 21.2
SIMULATION COMPLETE - SPECIFIED OPTIMUM NUMBER OF MISSIONS WERE RUN.
SYSTEM FAILS REQUIREMENT.
  BLOCK III CMA
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Fig. 6. TIGER Program output: system reliability, maintainability and readiness report

NUMBER		IPMENT NOMENCLATURE	TOTAL FAILURES	MISSIC FAILURES	ON AVERAGES CM MANHOURS
1	1	SYCONT	20	. 080	. 160
2	2	SC SYN	41	. 164	. 328
3 4 5 6 7	3	DC SYN	49	. 196	. 392
4	4 5 6	COMREG	25	. 100	. 200
5	5	SC PFC	22	.088	. 176
6		DC PFC	21	. 084	. 168
7	7	DFG	19	. 076	. 152
8	8	SFG	20	.080	. 160
9	9	MOD	15	.060	. 120
10	10	D/A	20	.080	.320
11	11	POWER SUPPLY	51	. 204	. 408
12	4	COMREG	19	.076	. 152
13	7	DFG	27	. 108	.216
14	8 9	SFG MOD	17	.068	. 136
15	12	DELAY	25	. 100	. 200
16			17	.068	. 136
17 18	13 1	D/A DELAYED SYCONT	12	. 048 . 092	. 192
19	2	SC SYN	23 50	. 200	. 184 . 400
20	3	DC SYN	40	. 160	.320
21	4	COMREG	40 20	.080	. 160
22	5	SC PFC	24	.096	. 192
23	5 6	DC PFC	18	.072	. 144
24	7	DFG	13	.052	. 104
25	é	SFG	24	.096	. 192
26	9	MOD	14	.056	.112
27	10	D/A	20	.080	.320
28	iĭ	POWER SUPPLY	45	.180	.360
29	4	COMREG	22	.088	. 176
30	7	DFG	23	.092	. 184
31	8	SFG	21	.084	. 168
32	9	MOD	24	.096	. 192
33	12	DELAY	16	.064	. 128
34	13	D/A DELAYED	14	.056	.224
		•	831	3,324	7,176

Fig. 7. TIGER Program output: equipment failures and corrective maintenance summary

		NUMBER	OF	SPARES P	ER MISS	ION				
EQUIPMENT		STATION			COMPLEX			* NETWORK		
		STOCK	US	AGE	STOC	K US	AGE	STOCK	U:	SAGE
TYPE	NOMENCLATURE	N	ΙΑΧ	AVG		MAX	AVG	٨	٨AX	AVG
1	SYCONT	0	0	.00	1	1	. 16	0	0	.00
2	SC SYN	0	0	.00	i	1	.32	0	0	.00
2 3	DC SYN	0	0	.00	1	1	. 32	0	0	.00
4 5 6 7	COMREG	0	0	.00	2	2	.34	0	0	.00
5	SC PFC	0	0	.00	1	1	. 17	0	0	.00
6	DC PFC	0	0	.00	1	1	. 15	o	0	.00
7	DFG	3 3	0 3 3 0	.33	2	Ō	.00	0 0 2 0	0	.00
8	SFG	3	3	.33	2	0 2	.00	2	0	.00
	MOD	0	0	.00	2	2	.30			.00
10	D/A	0	0	.00]	!	. 14	0	0	.00
11	POWER SUPPLY	0	0	.00	1		.33	0	0	.00
12	DELAY	0	Ū	.00	1	1	. 13	0	0	.00
13	D/A DELAYED	0	0	.00	3	1	. 10	U	U	.00
В	LOCK III CMA									

Fig. 8. TIGER Program output: number of spares per mission

EQUIPMENT			DOWNTIME	UNAVAILABILITY	PERCENT
NUMBER	TYPE	NOMENCLATURE	HOURS	FRACTION	CONTRIBUTION
2	2	SC SYN	9181.3	.01682	31.4
11	11	POWER SUPPLY	5521.9	.01011	18.9
6 3	6 3	DC PFC	3346.0	.00613	11.5
3		DC SYN	2995.1	. 00549	10.2
10	10	D/A	2450.6	.00449	8.4
1	1	SYCONT	1714.5	.00314	5.9
5 15	5	SC PFC	859.3	.00157	2.9
15	9	MOD	720.3	.00132	2.5
4	4	COMREG	636, 1	.00116	2.2
12	4	COMREG	501.2	.00092	1.7
16	12	DELAY	397.4	.00073	1.4
9	9	MOD	369.6	.00068	1.3
17	13	D/A DELAYED	334.1	.00061	1.1
13	7	DFG	63.5	.00012	.2 .2 .2
7	7	DFG	47.4	.00009	.2
8	8	SFG	44.8	. 00008	.2
14	8	SFG	38.9	.00007	.1

Fig. 9. TIGER Program output: equipment contributions to system unavailability

	EG	QUIPMENT CONTRIB	UTIONS TO SY	STEM UNRELIABILI	TY
EQI	JIPMEN	ΝT	NUMBER OF	UNRELIABILITY	PERCENT
NUMBER	TYPE	NOMENCLATURE	FAILURES	FRACTION	CONTRIBUTION
•	•	CC CVAI	,	00.400	01. /
Z	2	SC SYN	0	. 02400	31.6
11	11	POWER SUPPLY	4	. 01600	21.1
1	ı	SYCONT	2	.00800	10.5
6	6	DC PFC	2	.00800	10.5
10	10	D/A	2	.00800	10.5
3	3	DC SYN	2	.00800	10.5
5	5	SC PFC	ĩ	.00400	5.3

Fig. 10. TIGER Program output: equipment contributions to system unreliability